



COP 25 High-Level Event The Untold Story of Water in Climate Adaptation: 15 Countries Speak

Saturday, 7 December, 13:30-14:30
NDC Partnership Pavilion

#ClimateChange

#NDCs

#COP25

#ClimateIsWater

www.gwp.org

In the 2015 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), 9 out of every 10 countries prioritize action on water for adaptation - countries recognize that addressing impacts of climate change means working on water. It means proactively managing flood and drought; increasing built and natural water storage; modifying irrigation practices; valuing water and pricing it right for industry, agriculture, ecosystem services, and domestic users – all while balancing equity, economic, and environmental priorities.

Are countries on track to deliver on these water-related ambitions in their 2015 NDCs? Do they feel they have the required technical and institutional capabilities? Are they able to manage the multiple overlying dynamics at the interface of water, climate resilience, and sustainable development? **Looking to 2020, how do countries plan to raise their mitigation and adaptation commitments in the second round of NDCs – and what opportunities does water offer?**

This past year, GWP, in collaboration with Overseas Development Institute (ODI), listened to 15 countries – to their policy makers, civil society, and academics. We examined countries' NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) processes to see if and how they aim to build resilience by working on water, and we looked across their broad Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) priorities to see which of their development goals depend on the availability – in terms of both quantity and timing – and the quality of water. We interrogated countries ambitions for building resilience and advancing development via water, in light of their perceived maturity for taking the needed *integrated* approaches to manage the resource. With the countries, we attempted to identify **entry points offered by water – to build cross-sectoral adaptative capacity, reduce atmospheric carbon, and enable transformative change** to strengthen systemic resilience in national economies, livelihoods, and natural ecosystems.

This High-Level Event will showcase findings of this new research in 15 countries, highlighting opportunities that water offers for *coherently* building climate resilience, reducing disaster risk, and advancing sustainable development.

It will discuss the urgent action needed from all stakeholders – policy makers, non-state actors, development partners, and transboundary and regional organizations – in order to harness water's potential for resilience and development

Through a discussion that brings together diverse communities that have a stake in resilience, development, and water, this event aims to:

- Introduce a conceptual shift, whereby policy-makers elevate institution-building alongside infrastructure development wherever water is part of climate change mitigation and adaptation ambitions in NDCs and other policies and plans
- Steer an empirical revolution, to ensure data on water's value and water-related impacts, costs and benefits are integrated across climate-related decisions, particularly across mitigation, adaptation and development co-benefits
- Accelerate NDC implementation, through a focus on concrete, fundable climate action opportunities in the water space

AGENDA

WELCOME

4 years after the Paris Agreement – are we doing enough?

- Ambassador Howard Bamsey, Chair, **Global Water Partnership**

SPECIAL ADDRESS

Raising ambition and accelerating implementation of the NDCs and SDGs

- Mr. Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, **Kingdom of the Netherlands** – **Co-chair of the NDC Partnership**

KEYNOTE

A resilient, zero net emissions economy by 2050 – water in Costa Rica's 2020 NDC

- H.E. Haydee Rodriguez Romero, Vice Minister of Water & Seas, **Costa Rica** – **Co-chair of the NDC Partnership** [tbc]

HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE

Building resilience, reducing disaster risk, and advancing sustainable development – water as a connector

Moderated by: Dr. Monika Weber-Fahr, Executive Secretary & CEO, **GWP**

- Mr. Ephraim Mwepya Shitima, Director, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, **Zambia**
- Mr. Trevor Thompson, Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries, **Grenada**
- Mr. Sidi Mohamed El Wavi, Coordinator – National Program on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, **Mauritania**
- Dr. Musonda Mumba, Chief, Terrestrial Ecosystems, **UNEP**
- Ms. Selina Wrighter, Senior Adviser to the Executive Director, **Green Climate Fund**
- Mr. Pablo Vieira, Global Director, **NDC Partnership**

SUMMARY AND PATH FORWARD

- Dr. Heike Henn, Director for Climate policy and climate financing, **BMZ**

French-English translation will be provided.